

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

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SUBJECT: LABOR SITUATION

REF: (A) ADDIS 8716; (B) ADDIS 11070

1. ROLE OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN REVOLUTION DAY EXERCISES WAS MEAGER. CVLU HAD MODEST-SIZED CONTINGENT IN PARADE WITH PLACARDS STRESSING MARXIST SLOGANS. ONE OR TWO SIGNS CALLED FOR "MORE CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION" IN GOVERNMENT AND "DOWN WITH IMPERIALISTS," AND AS THEY MARCHED PAST ROSTRUM, ONE GROUP WAS HEARD TO SHOUT FOR DIRG TO "DISSOLVE, DISSOLVE". HOWEVER THESE WERE FAR OUT-NUMBERED BY EXPLETIVES MORE TO DIRG'S LIKING. MARKOS HAGOS, CELU PROVISIONAL CHAIRMAN, HAD EXPECTED PROMULGATION OF NEW LABOR LAWS BUT WAS DISAPPOINTED. HE CONTINUES HOPEFUL THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW MEASURES WILL APPEAR THIS WEEK, AS HE HAS CALLED CELU GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR SEPTEMBER 20.

2. CELU FINANCIAL SOLVENCY HAS BEEN MAINTAINED BY DIRG GRANT OF ETH.\$20,000 PER MONTH TO MEET PAYROLL. EDUCATION SEMINARS IN CELU BUILDING HAVE BEEN CONTINUING FOR PAST TWO MONTHS AND

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HAVE BEEN WELL ATTENDED. CONTENT OF LECTURES HAS INCLUDED

SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF INDOCTRINATION ON ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM AS WELL AS BASIC TRADE UNION IDEAS PRESENT CELU LEADERS ARE ADVOCATING. PROVISIONAL WORKERS' COMMITTEE (PWC) MEMBERS AND CELU STAFFERS HAVE ALSO FREQUENTLY ATTENDED AND ADDRESSED LOCAL UNION MEETINGS. MARKOS BELIEVES THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN PARAS 6 AND 7 REFTEL AND THAT CELU NOW READY FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3. FRAGMENTARY REPORTS INDICATE THAT CLEAVAGES WITHIN PWC AND CELU STAFF CONTINUE. GIRMACHEW LEMMA IS SAID TO BE LEADING OPPOSITION TO CELU ACCEPTANCE OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY. YILMA TIRUNEH AND TSEGAYE ALEMAYU ARE SAID TO BE INCREASINGLY INFLUENTIAL IN CELU STAFF. RUMORS SUGGEST THAT THERE IS STRONGER MOVE TO LEFT (RUSSIAN STYLE) AND THAT CELU AFFILIATION WITH WFTU IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. DELEGATION OF 10 TRADE UNIONISTS RECENTLY LEFT FOR TRAINING PROGRAM IN MOSCOW (INCLUDING TEBEBE OF CELU RESEARCH DEPT AND ELIAS MENGESHA OF HVA).

4. LEAD EDITORIAL OF ETHIOPIAN HERALD ON REVOLUTION DAY CARRIED LIST OF FORMER EXPLOITING GROUPS OF PARASITES, INCLUDING "BOUGHT TRADE UNIONISTS". THIS SEEMS TO INDICATE CONTINUING DISINTEREST IN OUTSIDE AID TO LABOR AND LACK OF ENVIRONMENT CONCLUSIVE TO GROWTH OF FREE TRADE UNIONISM. KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS IN ETHIOPIAN LABOR DEPT HAVE SUGGESTED DIRG WANTS CELU LEADERSHIP WHICH CAN BE BOUGHT AND CONTROLLED AND WHICH IS COMPETENT TO CONDUCT TRADE UNION BUSINESS BUT IS NOT AMBITIOUS OR INNOVATIVE. CONSEQUENTLY THEY EXPECT DIRG SUPPORT FOR MARKOS HAGOS TO CONTINUE AS HE POSSESSES JUST SUCH QUALIFICATIONS.

5. PLEASE INFORM AALC ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS.
HUMMEL

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